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The Athenian Mercury:

Tuesday, *April* 5. 1692.

A *Scheme of Enquiries* propoſed to all *Ingenious Gentlemen*, and other *Inquiſitive Perſons*, containing Inſtructions in order to Form a Body *of the Natural* Artificial and Civil *Hiſtory* of *England* and *Wales*, *Scotland* and *Ireland*, with the Forreign Plantations thereunto belonging.

Since by the Univerſal *ſpreading of our Papers we have very fair Opportunities to accompliſh this our preſent Deſign, which though 'tis not ſo compleat as it may be, yet we ſhall gladly receive any other diſcoveries which we have not here ſpecified, in order to ſo* great and uſeful a Work: *And herein we imitate the Conduct of* Ariſtotle, *when he compos'd his* Immortal Hiſtory of Animals, *ſo juſtly eſteem'd by the Learned World, which Piece was only the Reſult of Anſwers to his Queries diſpers'd through* Aſia, *by his Pupil and Patron* Alexander the Great.

I. *In the Regions of the AIR.*

What *Appearances*, or *Lights*, *Globes or Balls of Fire*, Beams or *Pyramids of Flame*, *Lights hovering on the Earth*, or *Flakes* riſing out, have you at any time ſeen? where they moſt appear? what the Nature of that Soil, and that of the adjacent places? Whether any known Minerals there? of what kind, or how far diſtant they are dug?

What *ſtrange or unaccountable Noiſes*? whether conſtant, or only at ſome certain Seaſon? what quarter the Winds then are in, or how the Neighbouring Hills or Valleys are ſeated?

What remarkable *Meteors* are more frequently ſeen, as *Haloes*, or *Luminous Circles* incompaſſing the Moon or Stars? What *Parhelias* or *Mock-ſuns*, and when you moſt obſerve 'em? *Rainbows*, whether ſeen an intire Circle, or otherwiſe than oppoſite to the Place of the Sun?

What *Tempeſts*, *Storms*, *Thunder*, *Lightning* have been in any parts, and what Miſchiefs or Damages have they done? What Colours are moſt uſual in your Lightnings? if you have any certain Obſervations by which you may predict their happening?

What *Winds* are moſt familiar to each place, whether any dangerous or hurtful to Man, Beaſt, Tree, *&c.* What Caverns or Dens, from which (as my Lord *Bacon* affirms) *ſtreams of Wind* perpetually break, and may be heard to rumble in their Bowels? Whether any *Winds conſtant* or *regular*, extending but to a particular Tract of ground? Whether any *Anniverſary*, which blow always from the ſame Points in the ſame times of the Year, *Circular* or *Whirlwinds*? In general, what Weather attends each particular Wind?

What *Rains* extraordinary in quantity or colour, *Hails*, *Miſt*, *Dew*, *Froſt*, *Heats*, have you known, and what ill effects have they had?

What *ſubterraneal ſteams* or *Exhalations* iſſue out of the Earth? Whether mortal, or any ways prejudicial to the health of the Neighbouring Inhabitants? Whether their Eruption be perpetual, or only at ſome certain time? What Diſeaſes are incident to any place, ſuppoſed to ariſe from Minerals, as *Gouts*, *Palſies*, *Cramps*, *Aſmatick Coughs?* What ſort of perſons moſt affected? Are there any *Smokes or melted Bodies* ſeen to aſcend, as in Volcano's? or the ground actually hot? any *Convulſions* or *Earthquakes*, and what places have moſt ſuffer'd by them?

II. *In Waters freſh.*

What *Springs* have you, and whether ever, or when dry? What new ones, and what have ceas'd to flow? What *Fiſhing* do your Rivers moſt yield? What *Salt-pits*, what *Medicinal Wells*, or if Oaken Leaves bruiſed be put in, will they blacken? What *Waters* extraordinary *warm* or *cold* have you? or of any manifeſt *taſte*, *ſcent* or *Colour*, as *milky*, *blackiſh*, *green*, &c. or with *Oyls ſwimming* on their Surface, or which corrode, eat or tinge any Bodies caſt into them, convert them into ſtone, or otherwiſe harden or ſoften them? if ſo, what ſort of ground do they run through? what colour do they leave on their Stones or Earth? and what uſe is made of them? what Salts or other Concretins do they leave on Shoar?

III. *In Waters ſalt.*

To *all Ingenious Seamen*,] What different *Colours and Degrees* of Saltneſs do you obſerve in different parts of the Sea? What ſeveral *depths*? whether near the Mouths of ſome Rivers, as is affirm'd it has been found ſoweriſh or bitter? if ſo, which are they? What different *Currents*, *Eddys*? near what Capes different *concourſe of Tides*? What *Species of Fiſhes* are moſt common, eſpecially in the four Seas; and what are their haunts? Whether the ſuperficial or lower Water have any where a different Courſe, as ſome have advanc'd in the mouth of the Mediterranean? Whether in any remote Countrey inland Lakes are obſerv'd to riſe and fall with the Sea, and whether above the level of the Water? *To ſuch who live near the Coaſts*,] what *Sea-plants*, whether any *Coral* found, which for Colour or Beauty may compare with that of the *French* of *Marſeilles* or *Thoulon*, &c.

IV. *Concerning EARTHS.*

What ſort of *Ochres*, *Chalks*, *Marles*, *Clays for Tobacco-pipes*, &c. what of any odd ſcent, Colour or Taſte, and what Quantities? Any *Turfs* better than the common, *fat and inflammible*? Any *Coal* dug? *Country mountainous*, or what Hill conſiderable for Figure, Proſpect, *&c.* What Minerals, as *Salt-Peter*, *Allum* or *Copperas* dug, or any Works for preparing theſe? What uncommon or odd Obſervation have you made on them?

Any

Any *Brimſtone*, *Antimony*, *Orpment*, *Black-lead*, *Calamy-ſtone*, *Load-ſtone*, *Amber*, do your Mines afford, and what other Minerals are generally in their Company?

What *Lead*, *Iron*, *Ores*, *Flint-Spars*, *Cawk*, *Tin-glaſs*, &c. or other Mettals.

☞ More particular Inſtructions with relation to theſe Heads, eſpecially thoſe of Mettals, Minerals, Earths and Stones, ſhall be given, as our future occaſion ſhall require.

V. *Concerning Plants.*

Whether you know of any ſtrange or unuſual *Plants*, or Trees, extraordinary either in their *growth*, *fruit*, *leaves*, or time of *Bloſſoming?*

Are there any near you curious in *Gardning?* Do they find Mr. *Evelyns* Obſervations, *&c.* will hold in all parts of *England*, or all in the ſame Latitude? Have you any that ſtudy *Inſects*, that know what are peculiar to *different Plants*, and whether the ſame Plants han't ſometimes different *Inſects?* Has any curiouſly obſerv'd the Diſeaſes of *Plants*, their *prevention* or *cure?* eſpecially of the *Blebs* or *Bliſters* we find on the *Leaves* of many *Shrubs* and *Trees?* of thoſe with Inſects, or without 'em?

VI. *Concerning HUSBANDRY.*

What unuſual *Grains* or *Graſſes* do you ſow in this *Countrey?* Have any found out any new *Improvement* of *Arable* or *Paſture-land*, or other Curioſity in *Husbandry?* any new ſort of *Plough*, &c. and are their Inventions *practicable*, and more *ſerviceable* than the old? Any new way to preſerve *Corn* from *Weeds*, *Flys*, *Birds*, *Worms*, *Moles*, &c? and whether there be any that you know of to keep it from *blaſting Mill-dew*, *&c?* Are there any near you that have any peculiar way of *Inning* or *Draining Marſhes*, *Bogs*, *Fens?* and any thing conſiderable done that way near you?

VII. *Concerning ANIMALS.*

Whether you know of any near you that are Curious *Obſervers* of *Inſects*, and the Works of *Bees*, *Silkworms*, &c? Any who have obſerv'd their *Origin*, *perfection*, *corruption*, *diſeaſes* and *cures?* Are there any *Birds*, *Fiſhes*, or *Reptils* peculiar to this Countrey, or any thing remarkable concerning them? Any ſtrange Beaſt, *Sheep*, *Horſe*, &c. of any *unuſual Quality*, or *mix'd Generation*, or wonderful bigneſs, or any other Animal attended with any *unuſual Circumſtances?*

Whether you know of any ſtrange Accidents that have befallen *Men* or *Women?* Any prodigious *Births*, *numerous Off-ſprings*, *Hermophradites?* Men or Women extreamly alike, of prodigious Memories, of extraordinary Stature, remarkable either for *exceſs or defect?* Any that have ſtrange *Antipathies* to Meats, Drinks, Animals, parts of *Animals?* Of unuſual Sleep, or watchings, *Night-walkers*, (in their *ſleep* we mean) *Dreams* or Predictions that have ſtrangely come to paſs? Of men of *extream Age*, of *ſudden Deaths*, of any reputed *Dead* that have ſtrangely come to *Life* agen? Any thing remarkable that attends a *Family* or ſingle perſon in their *Lives* or *Deaths?* as *Lights*, or *Noiſes*, &c? any *certain Apparitions?* (but let theſe be well atteſted?) Any *Ancient Sepulchres* or Caves, men of *Gigantick Stature?* or any vaſt Sceletons or Bones of Men?

VIII. *Concerning ARTS.*

Is there any hereabout that has made any *Improvement* in any of the *Liberal* or *mechanic Arts?* in *Phyſicks*, *Anatomy*, *Aſtronomy*, *Geometry*, *Arithmetick*, *Muſick*, *Architecture?* Are there any Buildings extraordinary, either in *whole* or *part*, Churches, Colledges, Town-halls, Conduits, Dwelling-houſes of the *Nobility* and *Gentry*, Mills, Stair-caſes, Chimney-pieces, Windows, *&c?* Any rare or *curious Engine?* Any perſon eminently *curious* in any *Handicraft*, and wherein his *excellency* lies?

IX. *Concerning ANTIQUITIES.*

Were there ever any *ancient Seats of Kings* in or near this place? Any ancient *Priories*, *Nunneries*, *Abbies*, &c? or any thing yet left remarkable concerning 'em? Are there the remains of any ancient *Caſtles* or *Fortifications?* Any old ways or *Banks* of *Land* ſtill remaining? Any *Barrows* or ancient *Monuments* of *ſtone?* Have you heard of any *Parliaments*, *Councils* or *Terms* held there? or was any old *Epiſcopal Sees* ever near you? Any Battles fought, any *Armour* found, or old *Money*, *Urns*, *Lamps*, *Lachrymatories*, *Pavements*, *Bracelets*, *Rings*, *Seals*, or other *Britiſh*, *Roman*, *Saxon*, or *Daniſh Antiquities*, and if you know in whoſe poſſeſſion they yet remain

What ſtrange and Immemorial *Cuſtoms*, what *Houſes* of *extraordinary Note*, and whether any valuable Manuſcripts any where near you? Or what elſe have you by you (of any kind) the publiſhing whereof may be either a Service to the publick, or to particular perſons, which if ſent, ſhall not fail to be inſerted in this *Undertaking*, with our Thoughts thereon.

Theſe are the *Enquiries*, with ſome few Additions that we've yet to make. Theſe we deſire the ingenious Reader wherever they may happen to come, *maturely* to conſider, and to ſend an Anſwer to as many of 'em as fall under his own proper Experience and Knowledge, directed to our Bookſeller at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*, whence with all convenient ſpeed they ſhall be tranſmitted to the *Preſs* in the manner already *deſcrib'd*, with ſuch *Improvements* on the different *Heads*, as we can make either from our own Experience, or the beſt *Authors*.

The *Queſtions* ſent this morning, ſhall be all anſwer'd next *Saturday*, with all thoſe mention'd in our laſt.

Advertiſements.

☞ Whatever Oar, Mineral, Turf, *&c.* that may be ſuſpected to have any ſort of Mettal, or unknown Body convertible to uſe, they are deſired to be ſent with the place where found, and we ſhall endeavour to give the Queriſt all poſſible information of their reſpective Natures.

☞ The Carriage is deſir'd to be paid, and ſent by the reſpective County Carrier, if it be any thing beſides Letters; 'tis alſo deſired that the poſtage be paid for all Letters, (for nothing will be receiv'd, the poſtage of which is not firſt paid for) that relate either to this *New Project*, or the *Reſolution of Queſtions*, that ſo the Undertakers may not be impoſed upon, nor diſcouraged in this uſeful Attempt. And always remember, that what you ſend be circumſtantiated with the *Name of the County*, Town and Place you ſend it from, and of the *particular Perſons* concerned, when the caſe requires it.

☞ THe *Supplement to the Fifth Volume of the Athenian Mercury*, (is now publiſht) reſolving all the moſt *Nice and Curious Queſtions* propoſed by the Ingenious of either Sex. To which is prefixt, the New Project concerning the *Natural and Artificial Rarities of* England: As alſo an *Ode* to the Athenian Society. Printed for *John Dunton* at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*, where is to be had the *Firſt*, *Second*, *Third*, *Fourth* and *Fifth Volumes* of the *Athenian Mercury*, (and the Supplements to 'em;) compleating the entire Set for the Year 1691. (or ſingle ones to this time.)—We have in this *Fifth Supplement* inſerted an account of our whole *Athenian Project*, that ſo none might be ignorant of what our Undertaking is, or of the promiſes we have formerly made.

*** A Perfect Diary of the late Famous Seige and Surrender of *Lymerick*: With the Articles (of Surrender) at large, both Civil and Military. Publiſhed by Authority, Printed for *R. Taylor* near *Stationers Hall*, price 6 *d.*

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